

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. No claims have been added or withdrawn. Therefore, after entry of this Amendment claim 1-20 are still pending. Claims 19 and 20 are allowed. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-14 and 16-18 are rejected. Claims 5, 11 and 15 are objected to. Applicant wishes to thank Examiner for allowable subject matter.

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-2, 6, 8-10, 12, 14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. U.S. Patent 5,841,840 in view of Smith et al. U.S. Patent 5,901,205 in view of Kikinis U.S. Patent 6,480,486 B2.

Claims 5, 11 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 19-20 are allowed. The Examiner stated the reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter as:

Regarding claim 19, claim 19 is allowed over prior art of record because the cited prior art taken individually or in combination fails to particularly disclose a method of increasing communication bandwidth, the mod comprising the step of "while the at least one other communication terminal communicates with the network node".

Instead of rewriting claim 5, Applicant has amended claim 1 with the limitation in claim 5 which said first communications terminal is adapted to exchange communication information over said shared second communication loop while said second communication terminal exchanges communication information over said shared second communication loop. This limitation is in the spirit of allowed claim 19 and thus

Applicant submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 1 to 2, 6, 8 to 10, are directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 1 and are thus also in condition for allowance.

Applicant has also amended claim 12 to include the limitation that the second modem communicates with the network node via said shared second communication loop while the first modem communicates said shared second communication loop. This is in the spirit of allowed claim 19. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 12 is in condition for allowance. Claims 13 to 18 depend directly or indirectly upon claim 12 and are thus also in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes this application and the claims herein to be in a condition for allowance. Please charge any fees needed during pendency of this application, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0668. Should the Examiner have further inquiry concerning these matters, please contact the below named attorney for Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,
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